

Application No. 10/002,744  
Amendment filed with RCE

Customer No. 01933

### R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

### THE CLAIMS

Independent claims 1, 9 and 12 have each been amended to clarify the feature of the present invention whereby, when no solution matching the claim content is found in the knowledge base section when the ordinary search and the extended search are performed, a new claim report to be produced using a report assisting module is issued, as supported by the disclosure in the specification at, for example, page 13, lines 17-20. See also Fig. 6, steps ST202, ST205, ST206.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments be approved and entered.

It is respectfully submitted, moreover, that USP 6,735,592 (previously cited "Neumann et al") does not disclose, teach or suggest issuing a new claim report (to be prepared using a report assisting module), if a solution cannot be found in a knowledge base using ordinary and extended searches, as according to the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1, 9 and 12.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1, 9 and 12, as well as claims 2-8, 10, 11, 13

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and 14 respectively depending therefrom, all clearly patentably distinguishes over Neumann et al, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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